1	2	3	4	5	6
2006	72.90	1.77	3.58	30.30	414.66
2007	54.34	2.64	5.26	36.66	399.74
2008	53.16	3.05	5.71	33.46	391.12

* at the end of the year

Exploitation of labourers in tea garden in Assam

2045. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the effect being made by Government and achievements to check exploitation of labourers by management in various tea gardens in Assam;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tea labour in Assam always failed to get their bonus timely;

(c) if so, whether the Government is considering to review such situation and adopt a specific policy on it; and

(d) whether Government is considering any special welfare scheme for the benefit of the tea labourers in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) In order to check the exploitation of labourers by management in Tea Gardens, the State Government of Assam has taken steps for effective implementation of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Assam Plantation Labour Rules 1956 along with other Acts such as the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Gratuity Act 1972. For management of provident fund for the tea workers the Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Act is implemented through Board of Trustees.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

(d) While the tea garden labour are entitled to social welfare measures as laid down under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 as applicable to the respective States in which they are working, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has made a provision of Rs 50 crores in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for improving health, education and skills of the workers in the country through Human Resource Development scheme of the Tea Board.

Besides the above measures, State Government of Assam have informed that they are providing various medical facilities to the labour in the Tea Gardens under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) have been signed by NRHM and 139 tea gardens. In addition various welfare schemes for facilitating standard education and higher studies, different scholarships are provided to the tea labourers' wards in Assam. A scheme of total sanitation and water supply is also being implemented in the tea gardens in five districts.